



# **San Diego City Attorney MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2005**

**Contact: Maria Velasquez, Communications Director: (619) 235-5725** (pager & voicemail) [mvelasquez@sanidiego.gov](mailto:mvelasquez@sanidiego.gov)

### **PRESS AVAILABILITY**

## **CITY ATTORNEY FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST TWO INDIVIDUALS MISAPPROPRIATING FOOD BANK DONATIONS**

#### **PRESS AVAILABILITY:**

Chris Morris, Head of the Criminal Division in the City Attorney's Office and Cindy Davis, Deputy City Attorney

The City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit has filed criminal charges against two individuals who obtained and misappropriated donated food from the San Diego Food Bank. Zeev Buchler was charged with thirty-two counts of theft and one count of forgery. Defendant Buchler was charged individually and doing business as the "Chabad Food Program." Jose Gilberto Alanis Cano was charged with two counts of theft and one count of forgery. Defendant Cano was charged individually and doing business as "Iglesia Apostolica Fuente de Vida Y Rehabilitacion Center".

The investigation was launched after Union Tribune investigative reporter Jeff McDonald released a report of potential charity fraud in relation to Food Bank donations. The City Attorney's Criminal Division undertook an extensive investigation of the matter. According to Deputy City Attorney Cindy Davis, the Food Bank and its parent organization Neighborhood House Association were very cooperative and helpful in the wide ranging investigation which resulted in this prosecution.

#### **DATE & TIME:**

**Thursday, September 1, 2005, at 10 a.m.**

#### **LOCATION:**

**City Attorney's Office, 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620**

###